



December 29, 2017

Dear Senators Cornyn and Feinstein,

I spent a considerable portion of my military career in the Asia-Pacific region, to include serving as Vice Commander of Pacific Air Forces and Commander of United States Forces in Japan. With this experience in mind, I write to express my strong support for your bipartisan legislation, the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2017 (FIRRMA).

In modern history, more than any other Nation, the United States has successfully integrated technology, at scale, into its national security strategy. Our ability to maintain a decisive technological edge over our adversaries is foundational to our efforts to dissuade, deter, and defeat those who threaten our security interests.

While I believe the United States should generally support the People's Republic of China's (PRC) rise as a responsible regional and international partner, we should also have no illusions about the economic and military competition between our two countries and the means and methods the PRC uses to advance its interests at our expense. In this regard, the PRC has a long history of accelerating its military development through the acquisition and integration of U.S. technology by legitimate and illegitimate means.

As you know, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) plays an important role in safeguarding U.S. technology from being inappropriately exploited to the advantage of our adversaries. However, the last significant update to CFIUS guidelines was in 2008, which means, in today's rapidly evolving business and security environments, we are overdue for additional guideline reforms.

In my judgement, FIRRMA strikes the right balance between harvesting the benefits of foreign investment in the United States and safeguarding technologies that are critical to our national security interests. Please add my voice to those who support enactment of this vital legislation as quickly as possible and please accept my appreciation for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,


EDWARD A. RICE, JR.
General (retired), USAF